

R.D. Webb to Mrs. M.W. Chapman

Dublin 1st of 10th month - 1843

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My dear Friend



This blessed Sunday, after meeting, as my wife, my youngest daughter aged 4, and myself were sitting in our drawing room a postman's knock came to the door - and I ran as I always do when I hear it to answer the delightful sound. It was the Boston mail, just delivering - for they generally make two or three lots of the cherry. The Liberator, will probably come tomorrow - the letter and a Canada Temperance Paper were there also landed in today. At the time of its arrival Hannah was just in the act of treading up a letter of mine to Garrison in the hope of making it a little less illegible. Richard Allen said for Liverpool tomorrow, hoping to see and confer with Amos A. Walker the day after, previous to his sailing on the 1st for Boston. The opportunity is such a good one that I have several letters written to go by him. As they must do so often in order to avoid post office penalties I will enclose them to them that they may amuse themselves & the children (if the children think it worth your while) reading them. They contain no secrets as well as I remember. I have said a good deal about myself - whether you like my notions or not I must only say with the affable letter in Branksford Hall "thanking my sentiments". I also enclose two letters from Eliza to Rogers as I thought he would like to know something of what she is doing and saying - the hydrophobia too may be amusing - but they are mostly what all letters ought to be, pleasant - amusing - and not intended nor adapted for publication. She is a little hearted creature with a regard of intelligent interest with such kind of disposition as are rarely found united. Better make no allusion in any of your letters to her to the money for W.L.G. as she herself would not like it. It cannot be necessary to make it a secret to be kept from you.

One of my besetting sins is a tendency to cross a sea of paper in letters to America, and I indulge it to an unwarrantable degree - such as I would be quite ashamed of if it were not for the judicious praise which you kindly administer from time to time, to support my shrinking modesty.

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Since the ignorance of the majority of the public respecting
Anti Slavery exertion is so intense that they know nothing &
care nothing of the differences between the Liberator & the
Emancipator - what do you hope from your efforts? Why preach
when nobody will hear?

My experience within the last four or five years has
been that not a man be ~~over~~ so earnest & zealous in the pursuit
of an object, he will find few to assist him in the search unless he
can inoculate them with his own zeal to such an degree as
to spread a moral epidemic ~~around him~~ around him.
Otherwise he will continue to be looked on as a fool and the
mass of mind around him will ~~remain~~ ^{remain} listless & heartless,
and unsympathizing. So it was with Temperance in
Ireland - so far as the masses were concerned till Father Mathew
arose. So it is with them now about Slavery, War, and many
other efforts for the relief of humanity.

I wrote to James S. Gibbons a beautiful letter, long, and
quite confidential some long weeks ago - respecting in the most
courteous terms some information about the time that Richard
Allen ordered my Standard to be sent to him. I have not
yet a word of reply. "Riddle me - Riddle me - Riddle
me right," I pray thee, and say why James has shown so
little regard to a courteous stranger. Is it because I am a
querrino?

I long greatly to know how is Miss Child? Where is she? What
is she doing? How is her affection towards you of the Boston Circle?
Where does she live? Has she any thing even indirectly to
do with the Standard? She is a great favorite with me.
In many literary respects I think her one of the first women
in the English language. Who is her superior in intellectual
power and beauty? I know she is not up to the mark
nevertheless she is a jewel. Pray tell me about Mrs. Child.

About the Bazaar they were. We hope to send something - but the
best portion will be from Cuba - The Jennings' are a gentle
family though andabella and Jane have great push and
energy - and they find and circulate & keep people alive in a
way that some of the women here are at all equal to. There-
fore they have their reward. I like to know you of our poverty
of numbers but you shall comfort my thing from me. We are a
small but increasing handful. We are looked on as half mad about
America & Anti-Slavery - our characters are given - prophetic though
we be, we have no home in our own country. We are considered
heretical, pretentious, extravagant, and so forth - so that nobody's
heads are vain in the streets.

Along with my letter go three or four from James Haughton
- they are open - he allowed me to read them - and I give them
the same permission. They are like the man, full of
kindness, and unsuspecting, hopefulness & simplicity of heart.
He is a rebel and believer in O'Connell. I am not and I
doubt. He sent the reminder to Daniel in a late letter
to the great man, with word that he should be proud of the
praise of such a woman. In my opinion if there lived in
Ireland there is no man there would abuse so much as James
O'Connell - not James Haughton

How do some others and particularly such a radical
as them all manage about the religious education of their
children - I would like to know. I am sometimes tempted to
daring prophecies about mine. What good can come of
them with such an unpurified father, with such training
- so inconsistent a mother - and such opinions about
the Sabbath and so forth. I wish in faith trusting that I
will be satisfied with whatever there may, much & so.

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Indeed in their letters generally there will find an abundance of rather
free and easy questions which you may incline to think rather
too intimate - but I beseech you to let them down to a pleasant
friendly spirit rather than any thing else, for it hurts my feelings
to be thought forward. Then there is such an easy way of passing
me by when I am too bold - you are at arms length - an ocean
rolls between - and you have nothing to do but quickly decline
an answer.

The first half of the letter was written by
Mabel yesterday, not my brother James's at present and outside
Dublin - James is in Kilmacurragh. This yellow sheet was the
last I could find in my own private house of Brunswick St.

I was going to talk about the Leachings, when I wrote. I know
them of the sisters - Mary, Helen, and Mabel. The last the
best. Helen takes in very sweet and graceful looking girls - but
Mabel is very cordial and free - with a delightful rich Irish brogue.
She is extremely pleasant looking and intelligent and writes to me
very often - and I write to her - so that we are good friends. They
are Unitarians, Unitarian, anti-slavery - and she is greatly affected
to Unitarianism, transcendentalism, non-resistance & high flying
things of that kind. For example, she corresponds with Rhode
Island Thomas Davis.

I am I have never seen. She is
I have heard the local handmaiden of the family and the most
energetic - she is the main spirit of the Barrett collection in
Irish. I am very desirous to lay my poor "good looking" eyes
upon her - for I hear she is full of life and enthusiasm which
I love to see even when I feel cold, frosty, and ugly myself.
To my great joy, James is to be in Dublin very shortly on a visit
to two chemists one of them former on his own account Professor
Kane - and the other, Davy, a first cousin of the great Sir
Humphrey. I hope when she comes that she will often write
us and that we will have what M.C.B. calls "a fine time".

About the Liberty Bells I will do the best I can to collect
some things for it. As to any thing from me it is painful to relate
that you are likely to have nothing - for I hate to see my own platitudes

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6 in such good print as Oliver Johnson and such an enduring shape
as the Liberty Bell. That being I sent you because it was the
best I had to show - not that it was at all fit, for it was not. But I
am no good for essays or articles - and so will only try and supply
the loss by prizing about in all directions among my friends for
such things as I can scrape together. I will try and send by
the packet of the 18th. I think I know of two or three pieces that
will suit you. (When in London 3 months ago, I asked Bowyer and he
promised to contribute something - but it is hard to depend on the promises
of great men. When with the selection from foreign writings
be not?

I send herewith a British Friend containing the latest news
from George Thompson - and a Morning Chronicle (which came
yesterday evening) giving an account of the evening meeting of the
Anti Corn Law League for the winter campaign. There were
talk of raising £100,000, in order to carry on the war. It is a
bold attempt after procuring and spending £50,000 already. But
when the English go about any thing in earnest they seldom let go
their grip till they succeed. This report and the speeches are
deeply interesting. I would much like Rogers to see both papers.

There is some very staunch anti Slavery in the British
Friend edited by Wm. Fernal, George Thompson's staunchest
friend in Great Britain. I don't think he is in as good favor
with the Reader as he used to be. ~~John~~ Perhaps W.D.
exchanges his paper with you in that case you can send
mine on to Rogers at once. I also send you a Freeman's

Journal begged for you from one who hates you since the last time you
wrote. Tell me something about the Pathfinders and the Rights
of the Colored People - I often see good things from them in the various

an able conducted Unitarian newspapers, published in London.
The New Child called the Pathfinders the best newspapers she knew of. The
Woolly Freeman is the repeal organ of the monthlies piece of Doctor Man
Nab. as fierce a priest as St. Dominic and no hypocrite. The Editor of
the paper is a quiet man looking little Protestant M.D. The paper again in
Dublin is edited formerly by a Catholic who has since who are none.

If the biggest rogue breathing walks up to James Haughton and
said - "th^o Haughton, I am greatly belied - I assure you I am an honest
man" - James would turn round to run with a look of the sincerest
compassion and would say "See now, Mrs. Chapman, the poor
fellow is greatly belied - he says he is an honest man." He is
indeed deeply saturated with the truth of human kindness so
that almost any body could make a fool of him. Let
W. L. G. should be hurt by the money being raised for him - tell
him that I only am guilty - that nobody was asked except that
Allen - that nobody knows but ourselves who gave - (and Hannah)
and that each gave what he pleased without being shamed or dictated
to - and furthermore, that I. K. when he gave me a pound did not
know that any collection was being made at all. ~~That is the~~

Ignorance of reputation as my own - and I have great need - for he is looked upon
as a chief of sinners by our righteous and I am considered as no better
than his fetch. Ask some Paddy what that means.

You must have heard something of Corkran the ex editor of
the Temperance Herald in Dublin from W. L. G. or W. P. R. There is
some allusion to him in one of my letters to Roger. Well, I lately
sent him Jimmy's card (to know ~~where~~ where he lives). I thought he
would like it as he has formerly - is a convinced Unitarian,
& in that respect comes from me I knew he would like to hear
something new from Boston. I send you his letter. Then will
see how stiff & matter-of-fact he is - so absurdly so that we both
rubbied him pretty hard over the knuckles the day his letter came
to hand. He is ~~now~~ a very worthy, upright, conscientious
fellow, and was one of the earliest and ablest testical laborers
in Ireland. Jimmy was amused by the picture an orthodox
heterodox friend draws of him. I send you a letter I had
to day from Isabel Leavitt containing a scolding for not replying
to me she wrote announcing James' intended visit to Dublin. It
will give you some taste of the mighty pleasant and cordial style
she writes in and which charms me exceedingly. My wife is one
of the very best letter writers I know - but she has her hands so full
that she seldom writes a line beyond our Irish connections.

6 8 Now I must stop or I'll never be done. Miss Lundy owes me a letter - Didnt I tell you to send James Haughton letter - you may send them etc - they will do nobody any harm, and then send them on the best way you can. Do you know any thing of Dale? I do not like him - and was not 3 minutes in his company till I saw he was no abolitionist though he only denied it. I. Haughton on the strength of his Anti Slavery professions. He is a smart gentle polished gentleman - a Virginian I think - but am not sure. He sends to make up the autograph book for Anne Lundy. I am sure she would be much more gratified by the gift in this shape - for then she can say ~~that~~ ^{it} ~~the~~ ^{the} came from the old hands.

In conversation with some new organized Anti Slavery people in Belfast, the suburb of the Emancipator and the Confessions of the American Anti Slavery Society's property, one of my friends remarked that Joseph Sturge had made enquiry when in America that see the documents & accounts which concerned him that the charges made against Tappan & Co were all false. What amount, doth that suppose he referred to? I like to be around with lots of particular respect then matters. Oblige me by paying Robert O.B. for the Herald for one year on account of Joseph Cook of Johnston, Tappan, Ireland. I ask account for it. Have you any Anti Slavery reports or pamphlets of Dr. Follen's which I have not seen? if you have I would be very glad to have them too.

If you should light upon any of the following nos. of the Standard which I want to complete my file I would be glad to have them - I have 3 years bound up wanting them

- Vol. 1. nos 2, 10, 13, 35 to 39, 41
- 2 - 11, 16, 22, 23
- 3 11, 19, 33

Old numbers of Standard wanted



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